WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1. A film-forming composition for topical application comprising
 - a. a film-forming polymer, and
 - b. a zwitterionic bulking agent having a molecular weight of from greater than 75 to less than 260.
- 2. The film-forming composition for topical application according to claim 1 comprising from about 3% to about 25% film-forming polymer.
- 3. The film-forming composition for topical application according to claim 1, wherein the film-forming polymer is selected from the group consisting of polyvinyl alcohol, polyvinyl alcohol/vinyl alcohol copolymer, polyvinyl pyrrolidone, polyvinyl pyrrolidone/vinyl acohol copolymer, polyvinyl caprolactam and mixtures thereof.
- 4. The film-forming composition for topical application according to claim 3, wherein the film-forming polymer comprises polyvinyl alcohol.
- 5. The film-forming composition for topical application according to claim 1 wherein the low molecular weight zwitterionic bulking agent comprises a quaternary ammonium salt represented by the general formula (I) below:

$$R_2 - N_2^{+} - \left[CH_2\right] - COO^{-}$$

$$R_3$$

wherein R₁, R₂, and R₃ are independently selected from -H, -CH₃, -CH₂CH₃, and -CH₂CH(OH)R₄, wherein R₄ is selected from -H, and C₁ to C₄ alkanes, and n is an integer from about 1 to about 3.

- 6. The film-forming composition for topical application according to claim 1 comprising from about 3% to about 30% zwitterionic bulking agent.
- 7. The film-forming composition according to claim 5 wherein the zwitterionic bulking agent is selected from the group consisting of trimethylglycine, proline, bicine, dimethylglycine and mixtures thereof.

- 8. The film-forming composition for topical application according to claim 1 further comprising a glassy material.
- 9. The film-forming composition for topical application according to claim 8 comprising from about 0.1% to about 15% glassy material.
- 10. The film-forming composition according to claim 8 wherein the glassy material comprises a low molecular weight, water-soluble material having a glass temperature (T_g) of greater than 62°C; maltodextrins having a molecular weight of from about 10,000 to about 70,000; and mixtures thereof.
- 11. The film-forming composition for topical application according to claim 10 wherein the low molecular weight, water-soluble material has a molecular weight of from about 342 to about 1000.
- 12. The film-forming composition for topical application according to claim 10 wherein the low molecular weight, water-soluble material is selected from the group consisting of raffinose, melezitose, isomalt, and mixtures thereof.
- 13. The film-forming composition for topical application according to claim 1 further comprising from about 0.1% to about 20% humectant.
- 14. The film forming composition for topical application according to claim 13 wherein the humectant is selected from the group consisting of polyhydric alcohol, amides, and mixtures thereof
- 15. The film-forming composition for topical application according to claim 14 wherein the polyhydric alcohol is glycerin.
- 16. The film-forming composition for topical application according to claim 14 wherein the amide is urea.
- 17. The film-forming composition for topical application according to claim 14 wherein the humectant comprises a mixture of glycerin and urea.

- 18. The film-forming composition for topical application according to claim 1 further comprising a skin care active selected from the group consisting of vitamin B₃ and derivatives, panthenol and its derivatives, retinoids, vitamin C and its derivatives, vitamin D and derivatives, vitamin E and its derivatives, amino acids, and mixtures thereof.
- 19. The film-forming composition for topical application according to claim 1 comprising less than about 30% ethanol.
- 20. The film-forming composition for topical application according to claim 1 comprising from about 0.1% to about 1% by weight of the composition of a 2 mm²/s silicone fluid.
- 21. The film-forming composition for topical application according to claim 1 comprising from about 0.1% to about 10% by weight of the composition of a particulate material.
- 22. The film forming composition according to claim 21 wherein the particulate material is selected from the group consisting of aluminium starch octenylsuccinate, microcrystalline cellulose, diatomaceous earth and mixtures thereof.
- 23. A kit comprising a film-forming composition according to claim 1 and at least one applicator.